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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8671  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES PRIORITY  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 6131  
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 1785  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 1605  
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 0246  
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 0578  
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY 0221  
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RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0949  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 1935  
RUEHPF/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY 0180  
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/16/2016  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [MARR](#) [PINS](#) [FR](#)  
SUBJECT: FRANCE AND WORKING GROUPS SUPPORTING THE SRI  
LANKAN PEACE PROCESS

REF: SECSTATE 94541

Classified By: Political Minister-Counselor Josiah Rosenblatt for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

1. (C) Deputy Political Counselor and poloff discussed reftel points June 13 with French MFA A/S equivalent for Asia, Herve Ladsous. Ladsous said that the GoF had no objections in principle to forming the two working groups, though, he added, France would probably not insert itself into a leadership position. He said that the GoF would support the formation of both working groups and noted that the group charged with examining LTTE financing would be of particular interest to the GoF given France's significant Tamil population. Ladsous asked if Norway was being demarched on the subject and lamented the fact that the Nordic's interest in the issue sometimes prevented action from being taken sooner. He noted that the EU and France would have been ready to designate the LTTE as a terrorist organization a year ago were it not for Norway's opposition.

2. (C) Ladsous asked if the U.S. had approached India on the working groups, saying that he intended to raise the issue with the Indians during upcoming talks there. He judged that Indian involvement in Nepal had effectively diffused a tense situation there and suggested the same result could occur if India took a more active role in Sri Lanka.

3. (C) Ladsous said he looked forward to further discussions on the issue with A/S Boucher during his upcoming visit to Washington.

4. (C) Bio note: Ladsous mentioned that he was angling to become the next French Ambassador to China or India.

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